

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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8 July 1974

DA QA/QC:  
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SY

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Human Interaction and Assessment Laboratory

1. Pursuant to John McMahon's memorandum of 26 June 1974, as approved by the Director, a meeting was called and a representative group met in my office. The group included John McMahon, D/OTS; [REDACTED] C/Ops/DDO; [REDACTED] Senior Psychologist, OTS/BAB; Mr. Rodriguez, DTR; and myself. John McMahon noted the occasion of the meeting and stated that he would turn to [REDACTED] to outline the purpose and mechanism of the present course. [REDACTED] emphasized that the course was based on informality and there was no structure to the course. He cited some advantages of individuals meeting in such a situation, alluding to the better understanding it provides of themselves and of their relationship to others. [REDACTED] advised that the DD/O has had some concerns about this course previously, that they had had some indications that some people have come apart in the course and for that reason were chary about continuing it. He noted that his secretary advised him that her husband had attended the course and she had a lot of critical comments to make about his experiences. [REDACTED] also noted that people were assigned to the course and that it was not a volunteer proposition. [REDACTED] was not aware that people who attended the course were other than volunteers. Mr. Rodriguez advised that a rather detailed review of ops training is ongoing at this time and that this course could be included as part of the study. I advised that the course presented certain problems. First of all, I was uncertain as to what specifically we hoped to accomplish and felt that there should be some study group put together that would define objectives, and I thought that the group should be chaired by a member of the DD/O. I stated that the course, as attempted, had certain built-in problems. First of all, it was attempting to change or modify behavior in a group situation in a week's time. The second problem had to do with the identity of the student body, indicating that it was more likely that students would be sent to the course that were already having problems in areas of interpersonal relationship and that they would be most vulnerable to the course pressures, and third, that somebody

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SUBJECT TO RELEASE BY DISCONTINUATION OF E.O. 11652, AUTOMATICALLY DOWNGRADED AT TWO YEAR INTERVALS AND DECLASSIFIED ON

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had to be responsible for the course. In the ensuing discussion, it was clear that [REDACTED] and I were in disagreement as to the value of the course and the risks inherent in its mechanisms and also the nature of its mechanisms. It was agreed -- finally -- that the suggestion for a study group be adopted and [REDACTED] will be appointing a DD/O representative who will call the study group together. Prior to that, it is possible that [REDACTED] and Mr. Rodriguez may meet with Bill Nelson to discuss the entire subject.

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2. [REDACTED] brought up the question of what is going to happen to [REDACTED] John McMahon was of a view that [REDACTED] services were no longer required and that the study group should consist of in-house personnel only. [REDACTED] was a little concerned that Mr. [REDACTED] might be a problem if his contract were discontinued, and he stated that the DD/O viewpoint, that they had enough problems now. Mr. Rodriguez proposed that [REDACTED] contract might be extended for a period of six months during which time he could provide a detailed report as to the history of this course and what it has accomplished in its runnings. I observed when questioned that my only interest was in the course and the disposition of [REDACTED] was something on which I had no comment. We will now await the meeting of the study group.

JOHN R. TIBTJEN, M. D.  
Director of Medical Services

OMS/JRT:jv

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